

Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan

Text as prepared for: 2002 Partners for Pollution Prevention Lunch

Date presented: October 23, 2002, 12:40 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Indianapolis, Indiana

(Text does not include verbatim comments)

Thank you, Jim. And good afternoon, everyone!

It's great to be here with so many of our partners who are helping all of Indiana to do the best job it can do to prevent pollution and to make our state a cleaner, healthier place to live, work, and raise a family.

Throughout the country, and specifically at IDEM, we have been celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act – the federal legislation that really started a national movement toward cleaning up our environment.

In the last 30 years, like the rest of the country, Indiana has woken up to the reality that a good business plan includes addressing waste material as lost product and that incorporates concepts that lead to processes that do the LEAST environmental harm possible.

Thirty years ago, too many business leaders didn't think about what happened to the river or groundwater after their wastewater ran into it. They didn't think about the down-the-road-cost of cleaning up the damage caused by processes INSIDE the plant.

When people STARTED thinking about those environmental effects and clean-up costs, they initially turned to TREATING the water before releasing it rather than finding ways to KEEP FROM PRODUCING the waste that required the treatment. And that, of course, led to a whole new world of regulations.

Today it is clear to see that PREVENTING the pollution is both a CHEAPER and BETTER way to operate.

But we have had the luxury of 30 years of work to come to that conclusion. So rather than admonishing business and industry for past practices, I am here today to THANK you for your insight, for your help and for your support in pollution prevention – or P2 as we call it.

(SLIDE SHOWING CWA, IIPPSMA, TRI DATES)

Indiana really got going well in the P2 area in 1990 with the passage of the Indiana Industrial Pollution Prevention and Safe Materials Act. As you well know, IDEM's Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance is the engine that drives that Act.

Before I go any farther, I want to thank our OPPTA staff for their hard work over the years and for their dedication to making the Governor's Toxic Reduction Challenge a landmark success.

Obviously, OPPTA could not accomplish ANY of its goals without you. So, thank YOU, for standing with us as we work to PREVENT pollution in Indiana.

I mentioned the Toxic Reduction Challenge because I know you want to know how we are doing and because it is a success story that we ALL should be proud of.

Jim told me that you would be interested in a mid-term report on the Challenge today, which made me think of this speech as a report card to you. And like a kid preparing to share a report card with her parents, I want to EXPLAIN a few things before we get down to the actual GRADE.

(SLIDE OF CHALLENGE)

First off, Governor O'Bannon first issued the Challenge in April of 1998 to build on a trend that Indiana businesses had started a decade earlier just after IDEM issued its first Toxic Release Inventory in 1988. For the first seven years of reporting to the TRI, Indiana businesses VOLUNTARILY reduced their toxic release by about 69 percent.

The Governor issued the Challenge in 1998, knowing that much of the EASIER P2 work had already been done. So this really was a CHALLENGE to dig deeper and do more, using the 1995 Toxic Release Inventory as a baseline.

In 1999, about 70 facilities in the state had accepted the Challenge. Today, we have about 90 facilities on board – so we ARE making progress, but of course we need to do more.

(SLIDE SHOWING GOALS)

There are three goals to the Challenge:

- Achieve a 50 percent reduction, by December 31, 2000, in the amount of carcinogens and persistent, bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) compounds released to air and water in large urban areas of the northwest, northern, central and southwestern regions of the state;
- Achieve a 60 percent reduction in the total amount of carcinogens and PBTs released statewide, by December 31, 2002; and
- Achieve a 50 percent reduction in all chemicals reported to TRI, statewide, by December 31, 2002.

(SLIDE OF GOAL 1)

Goal 1 measures air and water releases of carcinogens and PBTs in regions that have significant manufacturing activity:

- Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties in the northwest;
- St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall and Kosciusko counties in the north;
- Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Marion, Hancock, Morgan, Johnson and Shelby counties in central Indiana; and
- Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick in the southwest.

There is some GREAT news to report in central Indiana, which reports the largest decrease at 82 percent. The northwest and southwest regions have also made significant progress with 71 percent and 68 percent reductions, respectively.

The news is not AS good in the northern region – home to a heavy concentration of boat and RV manufacturing – which has reported an approximate three percent increase since 1995. There are various reasons for this. One of those reasons is a change to the calculation we use for chemical emissions that are most prevalent in this region. Another may be a surge in RV, camper and boat manufacturing – which accounts for 98 percent of the reported emissions. Because of state and federal rulemaking that will affect these industries, we expect these emissions to drop.

When we average the four geographic areas, Indiana has seen a 28 percent REDUCTION in air and water releases of carcinogens and PBTs in these large urban areas. Obviously, this is short of our 50 percent reduction goal by December 31, 2000.

But given that we exceeded the goal by so much in three of the four geographic areas, I am afraid I am not capable of assigning an unbiased grade to this one.

(SLIDE OF GOAL 2)

Goal 2 of the Challenge measures air and water releases of carcinogens and PBTs throughout the state. The 2000 TRI data – which is the most recent data we have available – shows that Indiana businesses have reduced these emissions by 35 percent – or 5.5 million pounds – since 1995. Our goal in this area is 60 percent reduction. While we won't have all the 2002 TRI data until spring of 2004, we believe we are on track to meet or exceed our 2002 goal. So I believe our grade will be an A or an A+.

(SLIDE OF GOAL 3)

For Goal 3, ALL toxic chemical releases, not just carcinogenic and PBTs, statewide have decreased 38 percent – or 30 million pounds – since 1995. Like Goal 2, we will not know EXACTLY how we have done until 2004 when the '02 data is reported to the TRI.

We ARE on track. And business should do WHATEVER they can in few remaining months of the challenge to help the State reach its goals. So again, in this area, I believe our grade will be an A or an A+.

(SLIDE SHOWING SUMMARY DATA)

The Governor's Challenge is already a success because so many leaders like you are reducing pollution in Indiana and because so many businesses are incorporating pollution prevention practices in their daily operations.

While Challenge goal dates have passed, or are rapidly approaching, this does not mean our work is done. The Governor's Challenge has resulted in many Indiana companies establishing their own challenges, and it is our hope that these self-imposed challenges will live on and continue to result in reductions in the future.

I know that you are with us in this effort, and on behalf of Governor O'Bannon, OPPTA and all of IDEM, thank you for your support and interest.

Let's KEEP IT UP!

Thank you.